

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Jan-Ove Persson
Serial No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: November 28, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned
Art Group: Unassigned
Docket No. 150-026

Title: Tracheostoma Valve

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application which is being filed concurrently herewith, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

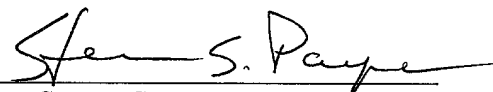
Please cancel claims 1-13 without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, please add new claims 14-26 as shown on the attached sheets.

REMARKS

Prior to examination, new claims 14-26 have been added to the application to place the application in better form for examination. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview may expedite the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the below attorney at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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14. A vocal valve to be mounted to a tracheostomized person's neck comprising:
an air passage to be connected to the tracheostoma for connecting trachea with the surroundings;
a check valve member in the air passage normally closed but allowing inhalation through the air passage; and
a manually adjustable member for establishing a free air flow through the air passage at inhalation as well as exhalation.

15. The vocal valve according to claim 14, further comprising:
a heat and moisture exchanging element provided in the air passage.

16. The vocal valve according to claim 15, wherein the manually adjusted member comprises a housing enclosing the vocal valve member, said housing being rotatably mounted to a bottom plate for connection to the tracheostoma.

17. The vocal valve according to claim 16, wherein the interior of the housing through at least one opening in the wall of the housing communicates with the surroundings via the heat and moisture exchanging element.

18. The vocal valve according to claim 17, wherein the heat and moisture exchanging element is detachably mounted to the housing on the outside surface thereof.

19. The vocal valve according to claim 17, wherein the check valve member is constructed to cover in the closed position thereof the opening and to block the air passage there through.

20. The vocal valve according to claim 19, wherein the check valve member comprises an elastic membrane which is constructed to keep the opening uncovered in a relieved condition thereof.

21. The vocal valve according to claim 20, further comprising:

a member which is displaceable by rotating the housing in relation to the elastic membrane is constructed to keep the elastic membrane in a position covering the opening in one rotated position of the housing, and to allow the relieved condition of the elastic membrane with the opening uncovered in another rotated position of the housing.

22. The vocal valve according to claim 19, wherein the check valve member comprises an elastic membrane which is constructed to take a position in a relieved condition thereof wherein the opening is covered.

23. The vocal valve according to claim 22, further comprising:

a member displaceable by rotation of the housing in relation to the elastic membrane is constructed to keep the elastic membrane in a position in which the opening is uncovered, in one rotated position of the housing.

24. The vocal valve according to claim 23, wherein the displaceable member is mounted stationarily on the bottom plate and that the elastic membrane is located on the inside of the wall of the housing to be rotatable together with the housing.

25. The vocal valve according to claim 19, wherein the opening can be adjusted to a position opposite to the check valve member by rotating the housing, the check valve member in said position controlling the air passage through the opening, and to another position wherein the opening is uncovered for free air passage there through.

26. The vocal valve according to claim 25, wherein a plurality of opening are provided in an end wall of the housing and the check valve member forms a corresponding number of flaps dimensioned to cover each one of the openings and separated by spaces, the openings being adjustable by rotation of the housing to a position wherein the openings are opposite to the flaps, and another position wherein the openings are located in the spaces between the flaps.